THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF THE UNITED STATES
LITTERA
SCRIPTA
MANET
1934

October 23, 1965

Honorable Lawson B. Knott, Jr.
Administrator of General Services
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Knott:

The family of the late President John F. Kennedy shares the concern of the Government of the United States that the personal effects of the late President which were gathered as evidence by the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy, as well as certain other materials relating to the assassination, should be deposited, safeguarded and preserved in the Archives of the United States as materials of historical importance. The family desires to prevent the undignified or sensational use of these materials (such as public display) or any other use which would tend in any way to dishonor the memory of the late President or cause unnecessary grief or suffering to the members of his family and those closely associated with him. We know the Government respects these desires.

Accordingly, pursuant to the provisions of 44 U.S.C. 397(c)(1), the executors of the estate of the late President John F. Kennedy hereby transfer to the Administrator of General Services, acting for and on behalf of the United States of America, for deposit in the National Archives of the United States, all of their right, title, and interest in all of the personal clothing of the late President now in the possession of the United States Government and identified in Appendix A, and in certain x-rays and photographs connected with the autopsy of the

late President referred to in Appendix B, and the Administrator accepts the same, for and in the name of the United States, for deposit in the National Archives of the United States, subject to the following restrictions, which shall continue in effect during the lives of the late President's widow, daughter, son, parents, brothers and sisters, or any of them: 1/

I

(1) None of the materials identified in Appendix A ("the Appendix A materials") shall be placed on public display.

(2) Access to the Appendix A materials shall be permitted only to:

(a) Any person authorized to act for a committee of the Congress, for a Presidential committee or commission, or for any other official agency of the United States Government, having authority to investigate matters relating to the death of the late President, for purposes within the investigative jurisdiction of such committee, commission or agency.

(b) Any serious scholar or investigator of matters relating to the death of the late President, for purposes relevant to his study thereof. The Administrator shall have full authority to deny requests for access, or to impose conditions he deems appropriate on access, in order to prevent unidentified or unauthorized reproduction of the Appendix A materials. The Administrator may seek the advice of the Attorney General or any person designated by the Attorney General with respect to the Administrator's responsibilities under this paragraph 2(a)(b).

-2-

(1) None of the materials referred to in Appendix B ("the Appendix B materials") shall be placed on public display.

(2) Access to the Appendix B materials shall be permitted only to:

(a) Any person authorized to act for a committee of the Congress, for a Presidential committee or commission, or for any other official agency of the United States Government, having authority to investigate matters relating to the death of the late President, for purposes within the investigative jurisdiction of such committee, commission or agency.

(b) Any recognized expert in the field of pathology or related areas of science or technology, for serious purposes relevant to the investigation of matters relating to the death of the late President; provided, however, that no access to the Appendix B materials pursuant to this paragraph II(2)(b) shall be authorized until five years after the date of this agreement except with the consent of the Kennedy family representative designated pursuant to paragraph IV(2). For the purposes of this paragraph, the determination of whether such an expert has suitable qualifications and serious purposes shall be made by the Kennedy family representative. No access shall be authorized pursuant to this paragraph II(2)(b) during the lives of the individuals referred to in the second paragraph of this agreement for any purpose involving reproduction or publication of the Appendix B materials without the consent of the Kennedy family representative, who shall have full authority to deny requests for

access, or to impose conditions he deems appropriate on access, in order to prevent such use of the Appendix B materials.

III

(1) In order to preserve the Appendix A materials and the Appendix B materials against possible damage, the Administrator is authorized to photograph or otherwise reproduce any of such materials for purposes of examination in lieu of the originals by persons authorized to have access pursuant to paragraph I(2) or paragraph II(2).

(2) The Administrator may condition access under paragraph I(2)(b) or paragraph II(2)(b) to any of the materials enumerated hereunder, or any reproduction thereof, upon agreement to comply with applicable restrictions specified in this agreement.

IV

(1) The Administrator shall be entitled to consult with the Kennedy family representative designated pursuant to paragraph IV(2), and to rely upon such representative's statements in writing as representing the views of the Kennedy family, in connection with the construction or application of this agreement in a particular case.

(2) The Kennedy family representative for the purposes of this agreement shall be BURKE MARSHALL. A successor representative of the Kennedy family may be designated in writing to the Administrator from time to time by Mrs. John F. Kennedy. In the event of the death or disability of Mrs. John F. Kennedy, any successor shall be designated by Robert F. Kennedy. In the event of the death or disability of both Mrs. John F. Kennedy and

Robert F. Kennedy, any such designation shall be made by Edward M. Kennedy. In the event of the death or disability of all three of them, any such designation shall be made by any adult child of the late President John F. Kennedy or by any of the late President's sisters, with the advice of other members of the family. Any representative designated hereunder will serve until a successor is designated.

V

This agreement may be amended, modified, or terminated only by written consent of the Administrator and the Kennedy family representative designated pursuant to paragraph IV(2).

VI

The Administrator shall impose such other restrictions on access to and inspection of the materials transferred hereunder, and take such further actions as he deems necessary and appropriate (including referral to the Department of Justice for appropriate legal action), to fulfill the objectives of this agreement and his statutory responsibility under the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949, as amended, to provide for the preservation, arrangement and use of materials transferred to his custody for archival administration.

VII

All duties, obligations and discretions herein conferred upon the Administrator shall inure to each holder of the office of Administrator of General Services from time to time, and to any official of the United States Government who may become successor to the functions of archival administration vested in the Administrator under

the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949, as amended. All such duties, obligations and discretions may be delegated to the Archivist of the United States, or to any successor to his functions of archival administration.

Please indicate your acceptance on behalf of the United States of America by executing the acceptance clause below.

Sincerely,

Burke Marshall, on behalf of the Executors of the Estate of John F. Kennedy

Accepted:

United States of America
by Lawson B. Knott, Jr.
Administrator of General Services

Nov

APPENDIX A

Clothing and personal effects of the late President, identified by the following exhibit numbers relating to the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy:

Commission Exhibit Nos. 393, 394, 395.

FBI Exhibit Nos. C26, C27, C28, C30, C33, C34, C35, C36.

APPENDIX B

1. Envelopes numbered 1 to 18 containing black and white negatives of photographs taken at time of autopsy.

2. 7 envelopes containing 4 x 5 negatives of autopsy material

3. 5 envelopes containing 4 x 5 exposed film containing no image

4. 1 roll of exposed film from a color camera entirely black with no image apparent

5. Envelope containing 8 X-ray negatives 14" x 17"; 6 X-ray negatives 10" x 12"; 12 black and white prints 11" x 14"; 17 black and white prints 14" x 17"; all negatives and prints pertaining to X-rays that were taken at the autopsy

6. 36 8" x 10" black and white prints - autopsy photos
37 3 1/2" x 4 1/2" black and white prints - autopsy photos
27 color positive transparencies 4" x 5"
1 unexposed piece of color film

7. 27 4" x 5" color negatives of autopsy photographs
55 8" x 10" color prints of autopsy photographs